

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 05788 131645Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SAB-02 L-03 SSO-00 /035 W
-----026725 131648Z /41

O 131650Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3164

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 5788

STADIS////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SENV, US, PN
SUBJECT: STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTALASSESSMENT OF CANAL TREATY

REF: SPEAR-BECKER TELCON 8/12

1. REF REQUESTED INFORMATION ON WHAT MORE WAS NEEDED TO
COMPLETE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND WHAT RESOURCES
THIS WOULD REQUIRE.

2. THE PRINCIPAL REQUIREMENT IS FOR MORE TIME. TERMS OF THE
TREATY HAVE BEEN SO CLOSELY HELD THAT PLANNERS AT THE
CANAL COMPANY/ZONE GOVERNMENT, SOUTHCOM, ETC. HAVE ONLY JUST
STARTED WORKING OUT DETAILS OF NEW ARRANGEMENTS BASED ON
THE TREATY PROVISIONS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE IMPACT
OF ACTIONS WHICH ARE STILL BEING FORMULATED.

3. PANAMANIAN HOLIDAYS AUGUST 11 AND 15 HAVE DELAYED EFFORTS TO
DETERMINE WHAT PLANS THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT HAS FOR THE
ZONE, BUT INITIAL CONTACTS SUGGEST THAT THEY TOO ARE ONLY
BEGINNING THEIR PLANNING.

4. RESOURCES REQUIREMENTS: IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT OF INCREASED TOLLS, WE WILL NEED TO PROJECT
THE AMOUNT OF CANAL TRAFFIC WHICH WILL BE DIVERTED TO THE
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LANDBRIDGE. DEPARTMENT'S CONSULTANT SHOULD GET STARTED ON THIS.

5. MR. SPEAR IS SEEKING TO MEET WITH OTHER PANAMANIAN PLANNERS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16. IF SUCCESSFUL, HE WOULD PROPOSE
RETURNING TO WASHINGTON AUGUST 17. HE HAS SUFFICIENT INFORMATION
OF THE FACTORS ON WHICH PLANS WILL BE BASED TO AT LEAST SPELL
OUT ALTERNATIVES. PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF STUDY IS ABOUT HALF COMPLETE.

IF,
AFTER REVIEW IN DEPARTMENT IT SEEMS NECESSARY TO HAVE MORE
DETAILS OF PLANNING, HE COULD RETURN TO PANAMA FOR A BRIEF
VISIT IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS, BY WHICH TIME PLANNING HERE
SHOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED. THIS TRIP SHOULD BE FACTORED INTO
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS.
JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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